



**LEAGUE OF WOMEN VOTERS
OF ANDOVER/NORTH ANDOVER**

Bulletin

www.lwv-andovers.org

September 2011

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Steering Committee: Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg,
Stefani Traina

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In This Issue

[From Steering Committee](#)

[Non-Partisan Policy Readopted](#)

[Andover Master Plan Update](#)

[Community Read-Along in Nov](#)

[Andover Days & KYTF](#)

[National League Activities](#)

[State League Activities](#)

[LWV A/NA Member Activities](#)

[Calendar](#)

[Available Board Positions](#)

[About the League of Women Voters](#)

[Membership Information](#)

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From Your Steering Committee

By Ann Cobleigh, Maureen Sundberg, Stefani Traina

Welcome to the 2011-2012 season!

First, we would like to thank all the volunteers who generously contributed their time and skills last year to make the Andover/North Andover League of Women Voters a vital organization. We also invite all new and renewing members to consider getting involved with one or more events this year.

August 26th was the 1st Anniversary of Andover's "League of Women Voters Making Democracy Work Day". In the Proclamation, the Board of Selectmen recognized the League's contributions to making our community healthy, vibrant, and strong through its nonpartisan efforts to improve government, increase civic participation, and impact public policies for lasting change through citizen education and advocacy. The date also marks the anniversary of the 19th Amendment, giving women full voting rights.

Looking back, last year's highlights included the celebration of the League's 90th anniversary, a fabulous holiday dinner and history presentation, a highly charged state convention in May, and a very well-attended lively Annual Meeting at Marland Place. Visit our website to read a complete summary of Annual Meeting. We were honored to have Eva Valentine, newly elected President of the LWV of Massachusetts, as our guest speaker. Eva is a former member of our local League, and it was great to have her join us. Pointing out that controversy increases visibility, Eva encouraged us to turn the public awareness sparked by the LWVUS ad campaign to our advantage. After a lively discussion, the membership agreed that continuing our fine local tradition of providing information and opportunities for civic discourse is both important and timely as we weather the breakdown of partisan cooperation in Washington. Both state and national leagues have begun implementing some new initiatives. Please look for regular updates and news in this and future Bulletin issues.

As some of you are aware, our league's Elected Officers and Board of Directors has been restructured as a Steering Committee this year. As our numbers are slightly reduced, the Committee is carefully choosing activities and public exposure aimed at rebuilding the reputation and perception of the League while maintaining a manageable workload for our volunteers. The

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Committee actively encourages members' input, ideas and time.

Getting started on our fall activities, the League had a table once again this year at the Know Your Town Fair (KYTF) as part of Andover Days on Saturday, September 24. It was terrific to catch up with some old League friends, talk with new residents, and start strengthening relationships with other town groups. For more information, see Heather's article below.

Looking ahead this fall: the Edgewood Retirement Community in North Andover plan to host the League for a Forum with guest speakers on environmental issues and public health, for League members and Edgewood residents (of whom there are several LWV members!) refreshments to be served; the Annual Chocolate-Membership event tentatively booked at the newly renovated Addison Art Gallery at Phillips Academy; and the always enjoyable Community Read-Along coming in November. A new idea is being explored to line-up speakers for most, if not all, board meetings to enhance the meeting time for members. Perhaps one of our members would like to present a topic, lead a discussion, or submit suggestions for speakers and topics.

Please note that the Member Handbook will be updated shortly in its entirety on-line at www.lwv-andovers.org. Knowing our members find the Handbook useful and managing expenses at the same time, we will utilize the old 2010-2011 copies for new members and those who did not have one. Additionally, an addendum will be published with this year's updated information, e.g., the Bylaws, Elected Officials, Calendar of Events, etc. These will be available to members and can be saved electronically on your computer or printed. If you wish to receive a hardcopy, please contact any member of the Steering Committee. In the event the League does not have a mailing address, a hardcopy will be snail-mailed.

Finally, thank you all for your continued membership and participation in the League of Women Voters. We welcome your ideas, comments and questions as the year progresses.

If you would like to become more involved in any aspect of the League please contact a member of the Steering Committee. We hope to see you at future events!

IA Non-Partisan Guidelines

June 2, 2004 Board Meeting
 Guidelines, re-adopted without changes at September 7, 2004 Meeting, are printed below.

Local, State and National Guidelines

The following restrictions and permissions apply to activities on the local, state and national level.

The President and/or Steering Committee and the Voter Services chair MAY NOT:

- Circulate nominating petitions.
- Endorse a candidate.



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- Display a candidate's yard sign.
- Attend or host a political function held for the purpose of introducing or fundraising for a candidate.
- Make a campaign contribution to a candidate (either above or below the reporting level)
- Run for a local charter commission.
- Run for elective office, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Serve in any position in a political party.

The President and/or Steering Committee MAY NOT:

- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee if such service would be in conflict with the League's program. This restriction does not apply to the Voter Services chair.

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The President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Services chair MAY:

- Sign nominating petitions, whether partisan or nonpartisan.
- Attend informational campaign functions to which all candidates have been invited.
- Accept an appointment to a local commission, board or committee if such service would not be in conflict with the League's program.

All other League Members:

Apart from the restriction given below about displaying LWV yard signs, no restrictions are placed on the political or civic involvement of all other League members, as long as they are not representing the League during this involvement. Any questions should be brought to the League board.

The following restriction applies to all LWV ANA members and non-members: Any political yard sign, including candidate's signs, ballot question signs, or warrant article signs, may not be simultaneously displayed with a League get-out-the-vote sign.

Political Activity of Spouses and Relatives:

The political activities of a spouse or relative of a League board member are considered separate and distinct from the activities of the board member. However, the President and/or Steering Committee and Voter Service chair must keep in mind that their impartiality may be called into question if their spouse engages in high-profile political activity, such as running for elective office.

Andover "2011 Master Plan" Update

by Lisa Schwarz, Senior Town Planner, Andover

Where are we now? Where do we want to go? How do we get there?

As the Planning Board enters the final phase of the rewrite of the *1992 Master Plan*, it's time to make sure the document incorporates Andover's long-term vision and outlines attainable goals and objectives which help support that vision. The *Master Plan* will be Andover's blueprint for the future that informs the Planning Board and other decision makers of the citizens' hope for the community. It is a long-range comprehensive document intended to guide growth and development in the Town for the next decade.

The current draft, entitled *The Town of Andover Master Plan 2011*, describes the Town's vision for the future and identifies the goals and policies to provide for future growth and development and at the same time protects natural resources. It provides facts on existing conditions and trends, enabling decision makers to better understand the impact of their decisions. Also included is information from different departments and other pertinent adopted plans. Further, it allows Andover to consider workforce, education and local infrastructure capacity, so that appropriate economic development, housing, and transportation strategies can be developed.

Next steps include refining the goals and objectives and compiling the final section addressing implementation, setting a timetable and assigning responsibilities. The Planning Board will conduct another public discussion session in the fall prior to adoption. Your input is valuable. Thoughts and comments may be emailed to Lisa Schwarz at lschwarz@andoverma.gov.

Communities change and develop, grow and evolve and do all the things that other dynamic systems do, which means our work is never really done. The *Master Plan* must remain a living and organic document in order to maintain its relevancy over time. It must be able to respond to change as well as guide it. The Planning Board intends to update the *Master Plan* every five years with annual addendums following Town Meeting.

The *Town of Andover Master Plan 2011* draft can be found online at: <http://andoverma.gov/planning/masterplan/>

Good planning helps create communities of lasting value!

Join the Community Read-Along

Again this year, the League is helping to organize Andover's Community Read-Along. During the week of November 14th, readers are invited to share their favorite books with a classroom of

elementary school students. Students are also eager to hear stories from their reader's own lives.

If you've never participated as a reader or haven't been contacted recently, send an email to rrsundberg@comcast.net. We'll make sure you get added to this year's list of readers!

Read-Along Committee Members:
Denise Boucher
Liz Elowe
Maureen Sundberg

"Andover Days" and "Know Your Town" Fair

By Heather Holman

Thank you to our volunteers Florence Feldman-Wood, Suanne Dillman, Amy Janovsky, Stefani Traina and Ann Cobleigh who staffed our table at Andover Days Sat, September 24. For those who are new to Andover, historically, the LWV collaborated in organizing and conducting Andover Days in order to make possible a venue that offered the non-profit



organizations with networking opportunities, promoted upcoming events, and gave citizens a chance to learn more about the community resources, which is the Know Your Town Fair mission. With approximately 5,000 visitors to downtown for the street festival and concerts, the event provides valuable and broad exposure for these groups.

This year the Andover Business Center Association (ABCA) took full charge of the event and has set the program and fees. I attended the planning sessions wearing my LWV hat, as well as being a member of the ABCA, and forwarded the non-profit groups' concerns regarding the new participation fee. The fee for a table was set at a hefty \$120.00 which included a tent, an eight-foot table, and two folding chairs set up and removed.



The primary reason for the increased fee this year was the lack of corporate sponsorship to help cover the cost of the Town for police details, ambulance presence, custodians, and clean-up crews. We realize that the cost has increased over the years and we have found sponsors for many organizations wanting to participate but were otherwise priced out of the event. It may become necessary to seek a different event in the future with whom to partner.

Feedback from participating organizations is really appreciated. Please contact Heather Moody Holman at 978-500-0626 or by email Heather@HeatherHolman.com.

National League - LWVUS Activities:

